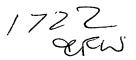
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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: B.E. SORENSEN

Application No: 09/743,589

Filing Date: January 24, 2003

For: NITS SEPARATOR

Confirmation No.: 4089 Group Art Unit: 1722 Examiner: D.H. Heckenberg Jr.

Attorney Docket No.: 81421-4043

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 13, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the entry of the following amendments and comments into this file of this application.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION begin on page 2.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS begin on page 3.

REMARKS begin on page 6.

A substitute drawing is submitted herewith for the Examiner's approval.

Copies of a previously filed substitute specification are enclosed.

No fees are believed to be due for this submission. Should any fees be required, however, please charge such fees to Winston & Strawn LLP Deposit Account No. 50-1814.